



February 2010 Weeks Marine Cutter Dredge GD Morgan on Atchafalaya Bar



Overview:

Contango Pipeline was completed in April 2008

In August 2009 Weeks was awarded Atchafalaya Bar Contract

The Project specifications identified 5 submarine pipelines in or near the channel but omitted the Contango Pipeline.

Weeks proceeded to lay out the project and notify pipeline owners based on the information Weeks had at the beginning of the project

In December 2009 the USCG announced the addition of the Contango pipeline in a local notice to mariners. Weeks did not notice that addition in the LNM.

The event occurred in February 2010

Fortunately the quick reaction of the leverman swinging the dredge away from the fireball prevented injuries.



Houston Ship Channel

10 pipelines shown in specifications

12 additional pipelines located during contractor investigations

Delaware River Deepening

Widener section of new work dredging

Pipeline summary report showed pipeline well below grade

Hopper dredge drag head impacted pipeline

Post incident investigation showed fuel pipeline intersected
corner of widener within dredging prism

Calcasieu River and Pass

Out of 32 pipelines identified during the execution of the work

- only 8 were shown in the verified locations

- 24 were either marked incorrectly or omitted completely



“It is the contractor's responsibility to verify the location of pipelines. I suggest you check the pipelines that might be of concern shown on both drawings.”

Pipeline Company position: “The Corp Project Director advised that nowhere in our permit does it state that we are required to have a representative present on this barge during this dredging operation. In addition, according the DOT and TRRC if we notify you in writing or by fax that you are not effecting our pipeline then we are releasing you to continue your work.”

“I have spoken with our legal department and I cannot make the pipeline owners be onboard the dredge when you dredge over their pipelines, therefore it is your responsibility to clear the channel in the area and you should take whatever steps are necessary to clear it. The contract will not be called complete and we can issue you an unsatisfactory performance evaluation if you don't pursue completing the work.”



- 1) Industry participation in Corp Pipeline and Utility Crossing PDT
- 2) Corps work on data base to fully identify population of infrastructure, prioritize based on risk level (ie gas lines).
- 3) Require Utility Owners provide confirmed as built drawings.
- 4) Corp mandate pipeline owners' responsibility to have a representative on dredging vessel during crossing operation to facilitate direct communications with operator in case of event.
- 5) Follow Louisiana's lead on coastal projects, comprehensive mag survey to identify infrastructure on a specific project before any work starts, include line item in solicitation requiring these surveys.
- 6) Corps representation to witness contractors physical locating of pipeline to certify data and include in next dredging tender specifications.

